

PUBLIC PAGE

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO UNDERSTAND LONGITUDINAL ERW SEAM FAILURES

Submitted by, Battelle in collaboration with
Kiefner and Associates Inc (KAI), and Det Norske Veritas (U.S.A.), Inc. (DNV)

Contact: Battelle Memorial Institute
505 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201,
Battelle PI: Brian Leis (614) 424-4421; (614) 458-4421 (fax); leis@battelle.org

Contract Number: DTPH56-11-T-000003
For quarterly period ending: August 26, 2011

The objective of the proposed project is to assist the PHMSA in favorably closing NTSB Recommendation P-09-1 arising from the Carmichael MS pipeline rupture involving an ERW seam, which directed that the PHMSA conduct a comprehensive study of ERW pipe properties and the means to assure that they do not fail in service. The work is anticipated to validate that periodic use of the current ERW seam integrity assessment methods (hydrostatic testing and in-line inspection using a crack-detection tool) are the best means to prevent ERW seam ruptures. The work will address the characteristics of ERW seams that make them susceptible to failure, and it will identify the factors the pipeline operators must consider in order to assure that their ERW pipelines are safe.

The project began on May 26, 2011. In this first quarter, a public meeting “Managing Challenges with Pipeline Seam Welds” was held in Arlington, VA on July 20, 2011. Battelle presented the research plan in the “Seam Weld Research Project and Input/Refinement of this Targeted Research” session; the moderator was Jeff Wiese, Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, DOT. Many tasks were initiated, including collection of data from pipeline operators.